

North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Children with Hearing and Visual Impairments

Assurances for Direct Individualized Education Program Services 2020-2021

The North Carolina Early Learning Sensory Support Program (ELSSP) is administered by the Exceptional Children Division in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the ELSSP is to provide direct services to young children with visual and hearing impairments, in addition to consultative services to families and other staff serving these children. The ELSSP provides the majority of its services to children birth through two years of age under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (NC Infant-Toddler Program). This is ensured by a Memorandum of Agreement between the North Carolina Departments of Public Instruction and Health and Human Services. Funding is provided by a special targeted set of state dollars and is also supplemented with Medicaid dollars through allowable Infant-Toddler billable services.

NC Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are responsible for providing special education and related services for eligible children, ages three through five years of age. Funding is provided by state, federal, and local dollars to support those services. State funds supporting the ELSSP are separate from the Local Education Agency funding model. Over the past several years, significant funding reductions have impacted the ELSSP's ability to provide direct services when an Exceptional Children Director requests support from the ELSSP. These requests must now be managed between the Exceptional Children Coordinators/Directors and the ELSSP Lead Contact to ensure the capacity for the delivery of consistent services, to maintain compliance with IDEA Part B, and to assist the Local Education Agency in planning. The purpose of this document is to establish clear expectations between the ELSSP program and your Local Education Agency. The contents of these assurances were developed through a stakeholder process between Exceptional Children Directors and leadership within the ELSSP.

Early Learning Sensory Support Program Contact Information			
Hearing Impairment Lead Contacts			
ELSSP-HI Lead Administrator	Ruth Anne Everett	ruth.anne.everett@dpi.nc.gov	828-781-4979 Fax# 919-733-1873
ELSSP-HI Intake Coordinator	Mandy Hice	mandy.hice@dpi.nc.gov	828-448-9353 Fax# 919-733-1873
Visual Impairment Lead Contacts			
ELSSP-VI Lead Administrator	Bethany Mayo	bethany.mayo@dpi.nc.gov	252-567-1028 Fax# 919-733-1873
ELSSP-VI Intake Coordinator	Lin Causey	salindra.causey@dpi.nc.gov	984-292-3067 Fax# 919-733-1873

LEA ASSURANCES	<p>Please check items to ensure agreement of implementation criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify key contact in charge of case management for student. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide the ELSSP with a signed “2020-2021 “Request for Services form” for each student and include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address at which direct services will be provided. 2. Frequency and intensity of direct service. 3. Copy of student’s Individual Education Program (IEP). 5. Specific directions on how progress reports should be provided by ELSSP. <input type="checkbox"/> LEA will ensure ELSSP teacher has access to ECATS in order to input goals, provide progress monitoring information, and the like. <input type="checkbox"/> Request additional services throughout the year by submitting a signed “2020-2021 ELSSP-HI or ELSSP-VI Request for Services form” for each new student to the Lead Administrator. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide most current audiogram for HI students not previously served in the ELSSP-HI program <input type="checkbox"/> Provide most current eye report for VI students not previously served in the ELSSP-VI program <input type="checkbox"/> Notify and invite the ELSSP teacher providing services to all IEP meetings. <input type="checkbox"/> LEA will submit the Deaf Blind Project Census and/or the Legally Blind Registry to the appropriate Consultants within the Exceptional Children Division.
STATE ASSURANCES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ELSSP will provide direct services by a NC licensed Teacher of the Deaf or Teacher of the Visually Impaired (herein referred to as teacher); or certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (O&M) to identified students based on ELSSP capacity. The ELSSP Lead Administrator and the LEA representative will sign the appropriate “2020-2021 ELSSP Request for Services” form for each student. 2. Throughout the year as direct services are requested for additional students, the ELSSP Lead Administrator and the LEA representative will sign the appropriate “2020-2021 ELSSP Request for Services” form. The signed form will be returned by the Lead Administrator within 14 days to the LEA, indicating available capacity for the delivery of services. 3. If the ELSSP program is no longer able to provide a teacher, a 30-day notice will be provided to the EC Director. 4. The ELSSP teacher or O&M will provide appropriate assessment data and progress reports in accordance with the IEP and LEA timelines. 5. The ELSSP teacher and O&M will adhere to the IEP and collaborate with educational teams by providing support in ways to enhance student learning and adapting activities and materials to the student’s abilities. 6. ELSSP will work with the LEA to provide required student census information for the North Carolina Deaf Blind Project Census and/or the APH Legally Blind Registry. 7. ELSSP will comply with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, (FERPA) and take all measures necessary to ensure confidentiality.

The signatures below assure that the Local Education Agency and the ELSSP program agree to accept the terms of this agreement and will fulfill the responsibilities and activities described above.

Signature of the Exceptional Children Director

Date

Signature of the Preschool Coordinator

Date

Signature of the ELSSP Program Lead Administrator

Date